

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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DEPT PASS JUSTICE - FRANK NILAND AND JAMES ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SOVIET MISOFF RE RECENT INCIDENTS

1. ACTING ON DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, SECURITY OFFICER USUN MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY YURY SHCHERBAKOV AT SOVIET MISSION MARCH 5. MISOFF REPEATED US CONCERN AND REGRET OVER RECENT INCIDENTS AND STATED HE WANTED TO ASSURE SOVIET MISSION THAT USG AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT SOVIET PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK.

2. MISOFF STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE SHOOTING INCIDENT, BOTH FEDERAL AND LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES WERE ACTIVELY PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR A QUICK SOLUTION, THE INVESTIGATION WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL BROUGHT HOPEFULLY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. SHCHERBAKOV WAS REMINDED THAT POLICE COVERAGE OF RIVERDALE COMPLEX HAD BEEN INCREASED TO THREE POLICE OFFICERS 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

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3. MISOFF NEXT REFERRED TO APPEARANCE IN THE MEDIA OF THE FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS ACCUSED OF BEING KGB AGENTS. MISOFF LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WE DEPLORE SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE TACTICS, ESPECIALLY THE DIVULGING OF ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. MISOFF STATED THAT NEW YORK CITY POLICE WOULD PROVIDE SPECIAL COVERAGE TO THE FIVE RESIDENCES. THIS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF FREQUENT VISITS BY THE RADIO CARS AND ANY FOOT PATROLMEN IN THE AREA. IT WAS ALSO STRONGLY STRESSED THAT EXISTING TELEPHONE NUMBERS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO UNLISTED ONES AND THAT DPL PLATES SHOULD ALSO BE CHANGED. SCHERBAKOV WAS ADVISED THAT IF THE SOVIET SIDE THOUGHT IT WAS NEEDED AND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, USG WOULD FURNISH PERSONAL BODYGUARDS TO THESE FIVE INDIVIDUALS. IT WOULD CONSIST OF A STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICER WHO WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ESCORT THE INDIVIDUAL FROM HIS RESIDENCE IN THE MORNING, ACCOMPANY HIM ON ALL MOVES THROUGHOUT THE DAY UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN THE EVENING.

4. CONCERNING THE RECENT INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SOVIET MISSION, MISOFF STATED THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASE OF POLICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE AREA IN THE HOPE THEY MIGHT WITNESS SUCH INCIDENTS AND MAKE ARRESTS. AS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THESE CANNOT BE ELIMINATED, HOWEVER, EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO CONTROL THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND PICKETS WOULD BE POSITIONED AT A DISTANCE AS FAR FROM SOVIET MISSION AS OUR LAWS PERMIT.

5. SCHERBAKOV'S ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING WAS ONE OF DECIDED CORDIALITY BUT HE STRESSED THE VERY SERIOUS CONCERN OF SOVIET MISSION. HE SAID HE HOPED INVESTIGATION OF SHOOTING INCIDENT WOULD SOON MEET WITH SUCCESS AND THAT PROPER PUNISHMENT WOULD BE METED OUT TO GUILTY. HE SAID UNLESS THE CULPRITS ARE FOUND AND PUNISHED THERE WILL BE MORE SUCH INCIDENTS AND THE SOVIET PERSON WHO NARROWLY ESCAPED BEING KILLED AT RIVERDALE MAY NOT BE AS FORTUNATE THE NEXT TIME.

6. REGARDING THE OFFER OF PERSONAL PROTECTION OF THE FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS, SCHERBAKOV ADVISED HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH AMB MALIK, IF HE RETURNS THIS WEEKEND, OR WITH AMB KHALAMOV, AND GIVE MISOFF A DECISION NEXT WEEK. SCHERBAKOV EXPRESSED SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE PUBLISHING OF THE NAMES AND SAID HE HOPED USG WOULD PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE. HE STATED THAT SOVIET SIDE COULD DISCLOSE NAMES OF AMERICANS IN MOSCOW BUT THEY HOPED TO AVOID HAVING TO ENGAGE IN SUCH A PRACTICE. WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE MEDIA IN

THE US, SCHERBAKOV SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT SUCH LARGE PUBLICATIONS AS NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST, THE ONES WITH LARGE CIRCULATIONS WHICH, HE SAID FORM PUBLIC OPINION, FROM ENGAGING IN SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING.

7. IN REFERRING TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT AT SOVIET MISSION, SHCHERBAKOV STRESSED HIS SHOCK AND DISPLEASURE AT THE TYPES OF SLOGANS DISPLAYED ON PLACARDS BY RECENT PICKETS WHICH, HE TERMED, HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE AND THREATENING AND SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THEY COULD BE PERMITTED UNDER US LAWS. HE MENTIONED THOSE REFERRING TO "RUSSIAN BLOOD IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK," "TWO RUSSIANS FOR EVERY JEW". AND "SOVIET DIPLOMATS WILL BE KIDNAPPED." SHCHERBAKOV ALSO CLAIMED TO BE OUTRAGED AT OBSCENITIES THAT VERY YOUNG DEMONSTRATORS WERE EVIDENTLY TAUGHT TO SAY IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE. HE SAID HE WOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO REPEAT THEM AND THAT THEY WERE HIGHLY OFFENSIVE TO SOVIET WIVES AND CHILDREN AT WHOM THEY WERE DIRECTED. ACCORDING TO SHCHERBAKOV, HIS MISSION CAN ACCEPT THAT USG CANNOT PREVENT DEMONSTRATIONS FROM OCCURRING, HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE US CANNOT EXERCISE SOME CONTROL OVER THE LANGUAGE, BOTH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN, USED BY DEMONSTRATORS. SHCHERBAKOV AT ONE POINT WARNED THAT THE RECENT RASH OF INCIDENTS AGAINST SOVIETS IN NEW YORK COULD EASILY RESULT IN SIMILAR UNPLEASANT ACTIONS AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW. HE SAID A FEW SMALL ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE SOVIET PRESS MENTIONING THE SHOOTING AND OTHER INCIDENTS. HE INDICATED THAT FOR THE PRESENT THESE STORIES WERE BEING PLAYED DOWN. HE SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT HOW THEY WOULD BE HANDLED IF THERE ARE FURTHER INCIDENTS AND HOW SOVIET CITIZENS WOULD REACT IF THEY BECAME CONVINCED SOVIETS ARE BEING ABUSED AND SHOT AT IN THE US. MISOFF ANSWERED HE HOPED THE SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT THE SOVIET PUBLIC FROM FORMING SUCH AN OPINION.

8. MEETING ENDED ON A VERY CORDIAL NOTE WITH SHCHERBAKOV EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR MISOFF'S VISIT.

9. THERE WAS A MEETING MARCH 5 AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO USUN'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL POLICE MEASURES ON BEHALF OF SOVIET MISSION AND RESIDENCES. POLICE HAVE PROMISED, IN ADDITION TO PUTTING MORE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF SOVIET MISSION THEY WOULD ALSO SEND PLAINCLOTHES DETECTIVES WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH JDL (JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE) TYPES TO SPEND AT LEAST A WEEK IN THE AREA TO OBSERVE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE STEPPED-UP COVERAGE OF THE FIVE RESIDENCES IS CONSIDERED BY POLICE

A PRIORITY ITEM. NEW YORK CITY POLICE HAVE PROMISED FULL
COOPERATION IN THESE MATTERS AND SHARE USG'S
CONCERN OVER SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL IN SOVIET UNION.
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